

What to do if you are robbed. During the Robbery

- Train employees in proper procedures to follow during and after a hold up.
- If a robber displays a firearm, consider it loaded.
- Do not resist. If you are confronted by a robber, cooperate. Don't risk physical harm.
- Try to remain calm and alert. Tell the robber if you need to make any sudden moves. Tell the truth to all questions asked.
- Try to observe as much as possible during the robbery without being obvious. The description of the suspect can be crucial in making an apprehension. Look for: Race, age, sex, facial characteristics(mustache, glasses), clothing, speech, other identifiers such as scars, jewelry, etc.
- Activate alarms only if it will not endanger lives.
- Try to get a description of the vehicle used in the escape and a direction of travel. This information assists the police as they are responding to the scene of the robbery. Do not attempt to follow the robbers.

After the Robbery

- Call the police immediately by dialing 911. Don't call your employer or someone else first. Time is very important.

- Do not disturb the scene of the crime, and do not touch anything that could possibly become evidence.
- Lock all doors and detain all witnesses.
- Record all details of the crime, but don't compare notes with others.
- Cooperate with the police. You play an important role in solving the crime.

Remember: Your life is the most important asset. Protect it by having a plan and following the above precautions.

A Crime Prevention officer will come and survey your establishment at no charge. If you are interested in this service, call your District Crime Prevention Officer or 301-840-2585.

DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICERS

Rockville.....	301-279-1438
Bethesda.....	301-657-0119
Silver Spring.....	301-565-5671
Wheaton.....	301-217-4408
Germantown.....	301-840-2650



Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

Gas Station Robberies

What can we do to prevent them?



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION
COMMUNITY OUTREACH SECTION
301-840-2585**

Gas Station Robberies

Robbers are very nervous when they are holding up an establishment, and they are usually armed with a gun. The typical robber is a young man who has a criminal record. The following is a list of trends for 1995. There were a total of 40 gas station robberies reported to police in Montgomery County. In addition, we have provided some tips to help reduce the chance that your gas station will be the next target. The most important element to consider if you are robbed, is to minimize the possibility of injury. Cash can be recovered, a life cannot.

Gas Station Trends

64% of Gas Station robberies occur between 5pm. and 2am.

Closing time is a common time for a robbery.

Many robbers pose as customers or ask for change.

In 75% of gas station robberies, a handgun was used or implied.

98% of suspects are males.

In most cases, the suspect demands money from the cash register.

In some cases, the suspect had cased the station before committing the robbery.

6 locations were targeted on more than one occasion.

In addition to the establishment being robbed, several customers were robbed at gas stations.

(Information from 1995 robberies in Montgomery Co.)

Crime Prevention Tips

All criminals are looking for the best opportunity to commit a crime. As the owner or employee of a store, having set policies and procedures for handling money and customers can reduce your chance of being chosen by the robber. The following are suggestions which can reduce the likelihood for being the victim of a robbery.

Deterring the Robbery

- Cash on hand is a lure. Keep as little cash in the store as possible. Vary your deposit procedure daily. Do not count money in view of customers. If possible, use an armored carrier service.
- Never use a conspicuously marked bank bag to transport money.
- Keep bait money (a bundle of money with recorded serial numbers) in each cash drawer.

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- Keep the safe locked at all times. Do not record the combination in a location where someone might find it.
 - Keep all doors locked when not in use. This includes garage doors and office and rear doors.
 - Use visual deterrents. Cameras are an excellent deterrent. Post your procedures in view of customers regarding keeping only a certain amount in cash register, etc.
 - Always open and close your business with at least two persons. Have one person remain outside where he or she can observe the other.
 - Don't admit customers after hours.
 - Instruct employees to report suspicious persons to the police.
 - Lighting is an excellent deterrent to all crime. Insure that all entrances and exits are well lit.
 - Communicate with your business neighbors. If you have observed a suspicious person, in addition to notifying the police, you should inform those who have a similar business and are in close proximity to your business. The criminals share information. We should too.